

NEUROSURGERY SPINE ASSOCIATES

1336 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001

Murray D. Robinson, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Andrew Venditti, PA-C

Phone (215) 884-5147
Fax (215) 884-5347
www.neurosurgery-spine.com

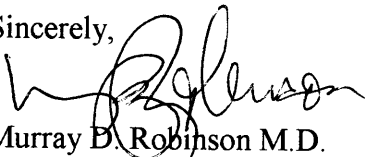
Date: 5/23/01

Regarding: upcoming FDA meeting concerning opioid medication for non-malignant pain

To whom it may concern,

My name is Murray D. Robinson and I am a practicing neuro-surgeon. I commonly use opioids in my patient population both for post-op management of pain/surgery and also in the treatment of spinal conditions not requiring surgery. These types of patients could never be managed correctly without opioid analgesia. Post-op pain after complex spinal surgery as well as neurogenic (nerve etiology) pain is very severe and must be treated with a strong centrally acting agent. These patients would require far too much non-opioid medication to adequately treat their pain, and this would lead to toxic side-effects. Opioids are absolutely essential to any neurosurgeon treating spinal conditions. The overall goal of non-malignant pain management is obviously geared toward weaning patients toward non-opioid medication, but opioids must be available for those select, severe cases till other modalities are used. It would be very harmful to patient care if doctors hands were tied when it came to using opioids for certain non-malignant pain syndromes.

Sincerely,



Murray D. Robinson M.D.

Surgery and consultation for spine, brain, peripheral nerve & pain ailments

OTHER OFFICE LOCATION: 633 W. Germantown Pike • Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462